



Division of Public Health Services

Office of the Assistant Director

Public Health Preparedness Services

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EMT Proof of US Citizenship/Eligibility Requirement Begins April 15, 2008

What is required?

In response to Federal and State statutory requirements, 8 U.S.C. § 1611, 1621 and A.R.S. §1-501, beginning April 15, 2008 all NEW and RECERTIFYING EMT applications must include documentation that satisfactorily demonstrates the applicant's citizenship or legal residency in the United States.

Who is affected?

This one time verification will only be required by the Bureau on initial applications and the first recertification application received after April 15, 2008. Future recertification will not require this documentation as the EMT records will be on file.

How can the EMT comply?

After completing the appropriate application, the EMT will need to provide two previously identified documents, one from "Primary Evidence List "A"", in the attached "U.S. Citizenship, U.S. National Status, Collective Naturalization, Derivative U.S. Citizenship, or Qualifying Alien Status Categories" and the other one, which can be a letter (a copy is acceptable) from the EMT's employer as proof of US citizenship/eligibility to work. Updated applications are now available on the Bureau web page at <http://www.azdhs.gov/bems/emtcert.htm>.

Copies: The Bureau will accept legible copies of the documents described in the "U.S. Citizenship, U.S. National Status, Collective Naturalization, Derivative U.S. Citizenship, or Qualifying Alien Status Categories".

Employer Letter: The Bureau will accept a letter (a copy is acceptable) from the EMT employer as one form of proof of US citizenship/eligibility to work as long as it contains all of the following:

- Is dated;
- A signature by an authorized representative of the company;
- Contains the full name of the EMT;
- Is printed on the employer's letterhead;
- Attests that the EMT is an employee, and
- The letter states that the employer has verified the lawful presence in the United States and eligibility of the EMT to receive state or local public benefits as required by Federal and State statutes.

Information on Federal and State Statutes:

In August of 1996, Congress passed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), which limits eligibility for certain public benefits based on a person's citizenship or immigration status. PRWORA provides that, with certain exceptions, only United States citizens, United States non-citizen nationals and "qualified aliens" are eligible for federal, state and local public benefits such as EMT Certification.

The Governor, in Executive Order 2004-30, directed State agencies to review the eligibility requirements of the PRWORA and ensure compliance with those laws. In 2004, Arizona Proposition 200 added legal status verification and reporting requirements to Title 46 programs. Arizona also passed House Bill 2467 last year, which created eligibility requirements for any person applying for a State administered public program. That bill created A.R.S. §1-501, which provides in part:

“Notwithstanding any other state law and to the extent permitted by federal law, any person who applies for a state administered public program that requires participants to be citizens of the United States, legal residents of the United States or otherwise lawfully present in the United States, shall submit documentation to the entity that administers the state public program demonstrating lawful presence in the United States. Self-declaration of lawful presence, even if made under penalty of perjury, is not sufficient by itself to demonstrate lawful presence in the United States.”

A.R.S. §1-501 prohibits the Bureau from accepting applications with either written or oral "self-declarations" without additional proof that the person is a citizen of the United States, legal resident of the United States or otherwise lawfully present in the United States.

Questions:

If you have questions about the process please contact a customer service representative at any of the three Bureau offices.

Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System (BEMSTS) Offices

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Certification Program Staff

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Statewide Toll Free Number: 1-800-200-8523